

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT REGION 8

WEEK ENDING MAY 2, 2014

OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION AND REMEDIATION

Last Week –

UPPER ANIMAS MINING DISTRICT SILVERTON, COLORADO

EPA met with the San Juan County Commissioners in Silverton, Colorado on Wednesday evening, April 23, 2014, to answer their questions concerning designating the Upper Animas Mining District as a national priority. Martin Hestmark, Steve Wharton, Paula Schmittiel, Dan Wall, Steve Way and Cynthia Peterson traveled to Silverton to meet with the commissioners. Representatives from both BLM and from CDPHE also attended the meeting along with members of the Animas River Stakeholder Group (ARSG), members of the community and reporters from both the Durango Herald and the Silverton Standard.

The Commissioners asked a series of questions that they had previously provided to EPA to maintain organization of the discussion. Several questions that had not previously been sent to EPA related to a “game plan” proposed by Sunny Side Gold (SSG) to ARSG and the public for the cleanup of the Animas River. SSG’s game plan focused on the continuation of the work through the stakeholder’s group. After an intense 90 minutes, the meeting was adjourned.

While the meeting with the County will not immediately change their minds on EPA and the designation of the site as a national priority, a discussion has started with the community and the interest from parties outside of Silverton appears to be continuing to grow. EPA conveyed to the Commissioners the distinction as to why the current process would not likely result in an adequate level of funding to address the contamination. EPA communicated our intention to return this summer when results of the USGS modeling are available to share this information and provide another opportunity to continue the discussion.

Links to articles and an editorial in the Durango Herald related to this meeting are provided below. Another article that appeared in the Silverton Standard is available as an adobe file which can be sent in an email if requested.

Contacts: Paula Schmittiel, RPM, 312-6861; Cynthia Peterson, CIC, 312-6879; Steve Way, OSC, 312-6723

[HYPERLINK "<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140422/NEWS01/140429856/-1/News01/Silverton-flirting-with-Superfund?>"]

[HYPERLINK "<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140423/NEWS01/140429803/Superfund-label-stokes-Silverton%E2%80%99s-curiosity>"]
<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140424/OPINION01/140429777/Silverton-Superfund->

This Week –

APPROVAL OF SOUTH DAKOTA’S 2014 303(D) LIST

On April 29, 2014, EPA Region 8 officially approved South Dakota’s CWA Section 303(d) List. The 303(d) List (or list of impaired waters) is part of a larger Integrated Report that every state is required to submit to EPA every two years (by April 1st of even-numbered years). Integrated Reports provide a comprehensive view of the condition of a state’s surface water resources. Due to the amount of work involved in preparing these reports, states are often not able to meet the April 1st deadline. It can also be challenging for EPA to meet its requirements to review and respond to states within 30 days of receiving an Integrated Report (depending on the complexity of the Report). South Dakota is one of seven states in the nation to submit their Integrated Report by the April 1st deadline this year, and to-date EPA has officially responded to two of these states within the 30 day review period (Nebraska and South Dakota).

Contact: Liz Rogers, EPR-EP-WQU, 312-6974

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT, COMPLIANCE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

***No items to report.**

OFFICE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Last Week –

EPA REGION 8 PARTICIPATION AT CITY OF DENVER EARTH DAY EVENT

As part of Earth Day outreach, the Environmental Stewardship Unit and the Pesticides Program participated in the City and County of Denver’s Environmental Quality Earth Day Fair on April 22, 2014, held at the Municipal Office Building. Approximately 1,000 people attended including: City and County of Denver employees, students, teachers, environmental service businesses, non-profits, and the general public. The EPA educated and informed participants about reducing food waste for organizations and mitigating environmental exposure risk in homes, schools and communities. Connections were made between the EPA and many of the 50 exhibitors representing the public arena, non-profits, and the city and state government sectors. *Information only; no action required by RA/DRA.*

Contacts: Virginia Till 312-6008; Clyde Wilson 312-6217; Barbara Dehnert 312-6617

THREE COLORADO SCHOOLS AND ONE DISTRICT RECEIVE 2014 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS RECOGNITION

On April 22, 2014, 48 schools nationwide were honored by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality with the Green Ribbon Schools award for their exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education. In addition, nine districts were honored for the District Sustainability Award. The three Colorado schools receiving Green Ribbon Schools recognition were Leshar Middle School in Ft. Collins; Larkspur Elementary in Larkspur; and Mesa Elementary in Cortez. The Boulder Valley School District in Boulder was honored with the District Sustainability Award. Region 8 participated on the EPA review team for DOE to provide input on school involvement in school integrated pest management programs. *Information only, no action required by RA/DRA.*

Contacts: Clyde Wilson 312-6217; Jennifer Schuller 312-6334

This Week –

SUBPART W AND POWERTECH’S DEWEY BURDOCK ISR FACILITY (SD)

On April 29, 2014, the Region 8 Air Program and OGC met with Powertech representatives to discuss their concerns regarding Subpart W compliance and how Subpart W may impact the holding ponds containing treated water at their proposed Dewey Burdock in situ uranium recovery facility in South Dakota. Proposed revisions to the current Subpart W rule were signed by the Administrator on April 17, 2014, and would regulate the ponds as a new source. Powertech is concerned about the applicability of Subpart W to the ponds. We encouraged them to submit their comments as part of the public comment period on the proposal. *Information only; no action required by RA/DRA.*

Contact: Scott Jackson, 312-6107 or Dr. Angelique Diaz, 312-6344

REGION 8 HELPS PRODUCE NEW “SENSIBLE STEPS” WEBINAR

Over the past year Region 8 has been instrumental in producing a series of ten nationwide school environmental health webinars based on the EPA’s popular “[HYPERLINK <http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockkey=P100EQOE.txt>]” guide. We have cultivated collaboration with 23 speakers from 18 different states and reached more than 1,800 school stakeholders across the country. Region 8 teamed up with partners in three other Regions, and with the EPA’s Indoor Environments Division and Office of Pesticide Programs in Washington, to produce a new webinar in the Sensible Steps series. The webinar was held on April 29, 2014, and provided [HYPERLINK <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/533580296>]. *Information only; no action required by the RA/DRA.*

Contacts: Jennifer Schuller 312-6334, Chris Frye 312-6223

MONTANA OPERATIONS OFFICE

***No items to report.**